

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1, 10, and 21 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Oku et al.* (JP 01-320871); rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Oku et al.* in view of *Okada* (USP 5,515,104); rejected claims 6-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Oku et al.* in view of *Kawamura et al.* (US 2002/0008763); and rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Oku et al.* in view of *Furuya* (USP 4,977,456). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 10 and 11 are allowed and, further, that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - *Oku et al.*

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that *Oku et al.* teaches all of the elements as set forth in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of the present invention identifies a problem with conventional electronic cameras. As electronic cameras have become smaller, a larger LCD monitor has become desirable in order to show an image. If the LCD monitor has a large screen covering a large part of the camera, it is necessary to reduce the size of the grip. This provides for it being difficult for the operator to hold the camera. If the hand holding the camera covers the screen of the LCD monitor, it is impossible to see the entire image. The present invention seeks to solve this problem by providing for a monitor disposed on a back portion of the camera wherein if the operator is reviewing a previously-taken image in the reproducing mode, the picture may utilize the entire size of the LCD monitor. However, if the operator is utilizing the camera in a recording mode, the image is reproduced in only a portion of the monitor where the hand of the operator does not cover the image displayed on the monitor. This description is provided to help the Examiner understand the present invention, and it is not intended to limit the claim scope in any way.

In contrast, the disclosure of *Oku et al.* is directed to a monitor device for a video tape recorder. The video tape recorder allows a user to check a picture to see if proper recording on the video tape recorder is occurring even during the recording mode. As

such, *Oku et al.* fails to appreciate the monitor as provided by the present invention.

Based upon the above, it is respectfully submitted that *Oku et al.* fails to anticipate the present invention as set forth in claim 1, and it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-9, and 12 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1.

By this Amendment, Applicant has presented new claims 13-25 for consideration by the Examiner.

Request for Interview

In order to further prosecution in the present application, Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Request for Personal Interview. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Catherine M. Voisinet at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the outstanding rejections prior to formally considering this Reply and issuing any new action.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

MKM/CMV/jdm
0879-0230P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 02/12/2004)